
Navajo County Bids Farewell to a Legacy of Service
Supervisor David Tenney leaves Navajo County to take post with Governor's Office

HOLBROOK, AZ – (February 10, 2015) – Tuesday's Board of Supervisors' meeting was filled with laughter and tears, as Navajo County bid Supervisor David Tenney farewell after a decade of service.

Tenney, with wife Gay and mother Mary, and surrounded by family and friends, was presented with momentos that depicted his years of service as Supervisor over District IV. For his efforts on forest restoration on the Mogollon Rim, Assistant County Manager Homero Vela presented Tenney with a plaque made from wood harvested from Navajo County. He credited Tenney with courage, stating that Tenney was not afraid of a room of people in opposition and would say and do the things necessary to do his job.

County Manager, Jimmy Jayne, presented Tenney with a football signed by Senior Staff and Elected Officials. This presentation was a nod to the years that Tenney coached youth and high school football. Jayne noted that his impact on these players went beyond time on the field, but he had a hand in preparing these young men to go on to become great. He thanked Tenney for his friendship. Attorney Brad Carlyon expressed regret that his own sons would not have the opportunity to play under Coach Tenney, as they will miss out on the influence Tenney has over his players.

Community Services Director, Lynda Young, presented Supervisor Tenney with a Redneck Briefcase to assist him in his transition to the "city". With items such as a redneck cell phone to a daily calendar to remind him of his redneck roots, Tenney will be well-equipped to handle the challenges of his new position. The case was filled with Almond Joy candy bars, his favorite, to get him through his new responsibilities. Young thanked Tenney's wife Gay, for the sacrifice she and his family made when he was called away to serve in his capacity as a Supervisor.

Elected officials wished Tenney well, expressing their gratitude and friendship in working with him. Supervisor Dawnafe Whitesinger stated that "no greater man was an example of quality leadership". Supervisor Jesse Thompson shared that Tenney had "earned the trust of the public and he was made to shine". County Attorney Brad Carlyon said that Tenney's heart and soul could be felt in the trees on the Rim.

An underlying theme throughout the farewell was David's service in accordance with his father's, Supervisor Lewis Noble Tenney (1942-2012). Lewis Tenney served on the Board of Supervisors for the period of 1997 to 2002. Lewis Tenney was instrumental in the formation of the Heber Unified School District and the opening of Mogollon High School. He served on many community boards and was a mentor to many of today's County leaders. David lived by his Dad's advice, "The world is run by those who show up", firmly believing in duty and accountability.

Navajo County Sheriff Clark thanked Supervisor Tenney for his friendship and wisdom, he assured Tenney that his father was indeed proud and smiling down on him this day. Supervisor Jason Whiting thanked him for being a mentor, expressing his gratitude for his friendship and trust. He also stated that Tenney's father would be proud of his son's life of service.

Perhaps the best example of this family legacy of service was when Assistant County Manager, Homero Vela described a business interaction with Lewis Tenney. Vela didn't know Lewis Tenney and he assisted him with a business request. Only after Tenney left did Vela find out he had been a former supervisor and was a current supervisor's father. He explained that Mr. Tenney's courtesy, respect and humbleness he extended toward Vela, without enforcing his station as a former Supervisor or a Supervisor's father, did not in any way diminish his position and authority. Vela then told David that "...the apple doesn't fall from the tree."



Assistant County Manager Vela and Tenney



Sheriff KC Clark and Tenney



County Manager Jimmy Jayne